REMARKS

Claims 12, 13, 25, 26, 30, and 31 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-11, 14, 16-24, 27-29, 32, and 33 have been canceled without prejudice herein. Claims 12, 25, and 30 have been amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to acknowledge with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 12, 13, 25, 26, 30, and 31 subject to being amended to independent form.

Claims 12, 25, and 30 have been amended herein to be independent form. Therefore, independent claims 12, 25, and 30, and their dependent claims 13, 26, and 31 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-843-6200, ext. 245.

Respectfully submitted, BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

Haruo Yawata

Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

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